

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 6, 10, 13, 17 and 21, leaves claims 3-5 and 7-9, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 22 and 23 unchanged and cancels claim 20. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2-19 and 21-23.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interview during which the distinguishing features of the present invention relative to the references of record were discussed. Particularly, it was discussed during said interview that the present invention, contrary to that taught by the references of record, directed to Internet Protocol (IP) based generation of a second header such that the first and second networks are IP networks or networks that implement the internet protocol.

As argued during the interview, the above described features of the present invention are clearly not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly McCloghrie (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,105) and Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,997) whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

As clearly described in McCloghrie and Chen, such references are simply directed to Local Area Networks (LANs). In fact, such is confirmed in McCloghrie at col. 2, lines 52-58, col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 23 and in col. 4, lines 33-44. Specifically, McCloghrie teaches, for example, in col. 3, lines 15-23 that MAC addresses are used between the first and second networks. The MAC addresses are LAN addresses contrary to the IP environment in which the features of the present invention as now more

clearly recited in the claims are directed. McCloghrie teaches that the second header is generated using the MAC address of the element wherein the first and second networks are LANs. Thus, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in McCloghrie or any of the other references of record of the use of the IP address and information in the first header to generate the second header as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 2-23 as being unpatentable over McCloghrie in view of Chen is respectfully requested.

The 37 CFR §1.75(c) rejection of claim 20 is rendered moot since as indicated above claim 20 was canceled.

Amendments were made to claims 13-16 so as to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 2-12.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2-19 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2-19 and 21-23 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (501.37526CX1).

Respectfully submitted,

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